

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
November 14, 2017**

A. **Call to Order**

Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins, Chair, called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System in Room 100, the “Louisiana Purchase Room,” Claiborne Conference Center, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana at 11:45 a.m.

Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Mark Romero to give an invocation prior to the roll call.

B. **Roll Call**

The roll was called.

PRESENT

Ms. Lola Dunahoe
Mr. Thomas Kitchen
Mr. Jimmie “Beau” Martin, Jr.
Mr. Shawn Murphy
Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins

Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Benjamin Rice
Mr. Mark Romero
Mr. Winfred Sibille

ABSENT

Mr. James Carter
Dr. John Condos
Mr. Edward Crawford III
Dr. Pamela Egan

Mr. Johnny McFerren
Mr. Virgil Robinson
Mr. Robert Shreve

Also present for the meeting were the following: System President Jim Henderson, System staff, Linda Clark, Winston DeCuir, Jr., interested citizens, and representatives of the news media.

C. **Report of Nicholls State University Presidential Search Committee**

Dr. Jim Henderson, Non-voting Chair of the Search Committee, reported that in September the Committee held its initial meeting on the campus, with the purpose of gathering input from the campus community regarding desirable qualities in the next President and establishing criteria for the Search Committee to follow.

He reported that the Committee met on October 25 in Baton Rouge to review applicant materials and at that time selected six semifinalists to interview on campus. Dr. Jay Clune, Dr. Eugene Dial, Dr. John Doucet, Dr. Marcheta Evans, Dr. Shawn Mauldin, and Dr. Wade Rouse were chosen as the semifinalists.

Chair Henderson said that on November 7 and 8, the Search Committee interviewed the candidates on Nicholls' campus and at the final Search Committee meeting recommended that the Board interview Dr. Jay Clune, Dr. John Doucet, and Dr. Marcheta Evans as finalists.

Dr. Henderson thanked members of the Search Committee, including Board Members James Carter, Jimmie "Beau" Martin, Jr., Shawn Murphy, Al Perkins, Elizabeth Pierre, Benjamin Rice, Mark Romero, and Winfred Sibille for their service. He also commended constituent members who gave of their time and effort to serve on the Committee, including Kirt Chouest, Bishop Shelton Fabre, Alice Pecoraro, Chris Riviere, Paula Arcement Rome, Donny Rouse, Tommy Thibodeaux, and David Whitney. Dr. Henderson especially thanked the Nicholls family for so graciously hosting the semifinalists, members of the Committee, and System staff.

D. Public Comment/Overview of Interview Procedures

Dr. Kahn, System Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, indicated that she had received several public comment cards. The following individuals came forward to speak to the Board:

Blaine Degruise
Holly Dicharry
Jean Donegan
Quenton Fontenot
Sushma Krishnamurthy
Gary LaFleur
Carol LeBlanc
Deborah Moorhead
Desley Plaisance
Velma Rogers
Brookes Washington

After the public comments, Dr. Henderson shared the framework for the day's interview process. He said that each finalist would be offered the opportunity to make an extended opening statement, followed by questions from Board members. After each interview, he stated that the Board would convene in Executive Session for a session with the candidate. Dr. Henderson indicated that, after reconvening in Open Session, the Board would interview the next finalist. He said that, after the last interview and Executive Session, the Board would remain in Executive Session to discuss any final personnel issues.

E. Candidate Interviews

Dr. John Doucet

Dr. John Doucet was escorted to the table for his interview. Dr. Henderson indicated that Dr. Doucet had joined the faculty of Nicholls in 1997 and is currently Professor of Biological Sciences, McIlhenny Professor of Human and Environmental Genetics, and Alcee Fortier Distinguished Professor. Dr. Doucet received his B.S. in Chemistry from Nicholls, Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from LSU Medical Center-New Orleans, two NIH postdoctoral fellowships in

Human Molecular Genetics, and graduate certification in Public Health Genomics from Sarah Lawrence College in New York.

Dr. Doucet introduced his wife Margaret and daughter Annie and provided an opening statement. Mr. Benjamin Rice and Mr. Thomas Kitchen posed questions.

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Romero, at 12:35 p.m., the Board convened in Executive Session with Dr. Doucet. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas:	Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Mr. Martin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Rice, Mr. Romero, Mr. Sibille
Nays:	None
Absent:	Mr. Carter, Dr. Condos, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Egan, Mr. McFerren, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Shreve

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Romero, at 1:25 p.m., the Board reconvened in Open Session. While in Executive Session, no motions were made nor votes taken.

Dr. Marcheta Evans

Dr. Marcheta Evans was escorted into the Auditorium and introduced by Dr. Henderson. President Henderson said that Dr. Evans received her B.S. in Psychology and M.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling from University of Alabama, M.A. in Education in Elementary Education from University of Alabama-Birmingham, and Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision specializing in Student Affairs, Administration in Higher Education, and Human Resource Management from University of Alabama. He said that Dr. Evans is currently Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Evans introduced her husband Ed and made an opening statement. Mr. Rice and Mr. Kitchen then posed questions to her.

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Rice, at 1:40 p.m. the Board convened to Executive Session with Dr. Evans. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas:	Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Mr. Martin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Rice, Mr. Romero, Mr. Sibille
Nays:	None
Absent:	Mr. Carter, Dr. Condos, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Egan, Mr. McFerren, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Shreve

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Romero, at 2:20 p.m., the Board reconvened in Open Session. While in Executive Session, no motions were made nor votes taken.

Mr. Perkins took the opportunity to acknowledge Dr. Joseph Rallo, Commissioner of Higher Education, who was present in the auditorium.

Dr. Jay Clune

President Henderson introduced Dr. Jay Clune as he was escorted into the Auditorium. Dr. Henderson stated that Dr. Clune is currently the interim Graduate Dean of the University of West Florida. He indicated that he had earned his B.S. in Marketing from Nicholls State University, Master's degree in Latin American Studies with concentrations in International Business and History from the University of Alabama, and Ph.D. in History from Louisiana State University.

Dr. Clune introduced his wife Allison and his two daughters, Gabrielle and Caroline. He made his opening statement, after which Mr. Rice and Mr. Kitchen, Board members, questioned him.

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Sibille, at 2:30 p.m., the Board convened to Executive Session with Dr. Clune. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas:	Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Mr. Martin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Rice, Mr. Romero, Mr. Sibille
Nays:	None
Absent:	Mr. Carter, Dr. Condos, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Egan, Mr. McFerren, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Shreve

Upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Dunahoe, at 3:50 p.m., the Board reconvened in Open Session. While in Executive Session, no motions were made nor votes taken.

F. **Deliberations**

After Mr. Perkins asked for comments from the Board, upon motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Rice, and amended by Mr. Romero, seconded by Mr. Sibille, the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Board:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Dr. Jay Clune be appointed as President of Nicholls State University and that System President Jim Henderson and Board Chair Al Perkins negotiate the terms of appointment and execute an offer of employment on behalf of the Board.

The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas: Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Mr. Martin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Rice, Mr. Romero, Mr. Sibille

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Carter, Dr. Condos, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Egan, Mr. McFerren, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Shreve

G. **Introduction of President of Nicholls State University**

Chair Perkins thanked Dr. Henderson, Search Committee members, Board members, and System staff for a successful search. He congratulated Dr. Clune as the 6th President of Nicholls State University.

Dr. Clune expressed his gratitude to the Board and Search Committee for selecting him as President. He said that it has been a long-time hope to return to the region as he grew up in Houma and graduated from Nicholls.

H. **Other Business**

Mr. Perkins reminded Board members that the next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 1 in Natchitoches at Northwestern State University.

I. **Adjournment**

Upon motion of Mr. Sibille, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board adjourned at 4:05 p.m.